

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1.(thrice amended): An address management method in a communication system equipped with a plurality of terminals, and a server for registering a corresponding relationship between a first address and a second address of each terminal, the method comprising the steps of:

sending, to the server by an originating terminal, an address interrogation request which includes a first value indicative of a request and a first address;

transferring, to a plurality of terminals by the server, the address interrogation request which includes the first value and first address;

receiving, by each terminal the address interrogation request transferred from the server;

determining by each terminal whether the first address included in the address interrogation request received from the server agrees with a terminal's own first address;

notifying, by each terminal, in response to the address interrogation request, the server of an answer which includes a terminal's own second address which is not registered in the server and a second value indicative of an answer when agreement is achieved;

receiving, from one of the plurality of terminals by the server, the answer which includes the second value and the second address which corresponds to the first address; and

registering, in the server, a corresponding relationship between the first address and the

second address which is included in the answer.

6.(thrice amended): An address management method in a communication system equipped with a plurality of terminals, and a server for registering a corresponding relationship between a first address and a second address of each terminal, the method comprising the steps of:

~~sending, to the server by an originating terminal, an address interrogation request which includes a first value indicative of a request and a first address;~~

~~transferring, to a plurality of terminals by the server, the address interrogation request which includes the first value and first address;~~

~~receiving, by each terminal, the address interrogation request transferred from the server;~~

~~determining by each terminal whether the first address included in the address interrogation request received from the server agrees with a terminal's own first address;~~

~~notifying, by the terminal in response to the address interrogation request, the server of an answer which includes a terminal's own second address which is not registered in the server and a second value indicative of an answer when agreement is achieved;~~

~~receiving, from one of the plurality of terminals by the server, the answer which includes the second value and the second address which corresponds to the first address;~~

~~deleting a corresponding relationship, referred to least recently, between a first address~~

and a second address if the server cannot accommodate a corresponding relationship between the first address and second address included in the answer received from a prescribed terminal; and registering, in a memory by the server, a corresponding relationship between the first address and the second address which is included in the answer.

8.(thrice amended): A communication system equipped with a plurality of terminals, and a server for registering a corresponding relationship between a first address and second address of each terminal, wherein

each of the terminals comprises:

means for sending, to the server, an address interrogation request which includes a first value indicative of a request and a first address; and

means for answering the server with an answer including its own second address which is not registered in the server and a second value indicative of an answer when a first address, included in an address interrogation request which has been received from the server, agrees with its own first address; and

the server comprises:

means for transferring the address interrogation request which includes the first value and the first address to a plurality of terminals; and

registration means for registering, in the server, a corresponding relationship between the first address and the second address which is included in the answer which has been received from one of the plurality of terminals in response to the address interrogation request which has been transferred from the server.

12.(thrice amended): A server in a communication system equipped with a plurality of terminals, the server comprising:

interrogation means for receiving, from an originating terminal, an address interrogation request including a first value indicative of a request and a first address, and for transferring the address interrogation request to a plurality of terminals;

means for receiving, from one of the plurality of terminals having its own second address which is not registered in the server, an answer including a second value indicative of an answer and a second address which corresponds to the first address, in response to the address interrogation request which has been transferred from the server; and

registration means for registering, in a memory, a corresponding relationship between the first address and the second address which is included in the answer.

40.(thrice amended): In a network system having a server, the method of registering in the

server a corresponding relationship between a first identifier and a second identifier for a communicating party, comprising the steps of:

receiving an interrogation request including a first value indicative of a request and a first identifier;

determining a corresponding second identifier is not registered in the server;
transferring the interrogation request to a plurality of terminals which can accommodate the communicating party;

receiving, from a terminal having its own second identifier which is not registered in the server, an answer including a second value indicative of an answer and a second identifier which corresponds to the communicating party identified by the first identifier, in response to the interrogation request; and

registering a corresponding relationship between the first identifier and the second identifier which is included in the answer.

58. (once amended): In a network system including communicating parties accommodated by terminals, a method of registering a corresponding relationship between a first identifier and a second identifier for a communicating party, comprising the steps of:

when a communication request is issued, determining, in a terminal

accommodating an originating party, whether a second identifier for another communicating party is registered;

sending to a server an interrogation request including a first value indicative of a request and a first identifier of the other communicating party when the second identifier is not registered in the terminal;

transferring, by the server, the interrogation request to a plurality of terminals which can accommodate the other communicating party when the second identifier corresponding to the first identifier is not registered in the server;

receiving, at the server, an answer including a second value indicative of an answer and the second identifier which corresponds to the other communicating party identified by the first identifier in response to the interrogation request, said answer from a terminal having its own second identifier which is not registered in the server;

sending the answer to the terminal accommodating the originating party; and

registering, in the terminal accommodating the originating party, a corresponding relationship between the first identifier and the second identifier which is included in the answer.

67.(once amended): A network identifier resolution system equipped with a plurality of terminals, a switch or exchange which accommodates each terminal of a plurality of terminals and

a server, wherein

each terminal of the plurality of terminals comprising:

a processor that receives a communication request message, determines a first identifier from the communication request message, checks a local storage area for a corresponding second identifier, and when a second identifier is not registered, creates an interrogation request message which includes a first value indicative of a request and the first identifier; and

a network interface unit that sends to the server the interrogation request message and receives answers and interrogation request messages from the server;

the server comprising:

a processor that receives the interrogation request message, checks a storage area for a corresponding second identifier, and when a second identifier is not registered, forwards the interrogation request;

network interface unit for transferring the interrogation request message including the first value indicative of the request and the first identifier to a plurality of terminals, and receiving, in response to the interrogation request message, an answer including a second identifier corresponding to the first identifier from one of the plurality of terminals having its own second identifier which is not registered in the server; and

the storage area for registering a corresponding relationship between the first identifier and the second identifier which has been included in the answer.